

National Children's Study Overview and Highlights of Pilot Studies

Amy Branum, MSPH

National Center for Health Statistics

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Chair, Interagency Coordinating Committee



Pilot Studies and the NCS

- The NCS has been conducting pilot studies for the last five years
- Many early studies conducted through existing EPA mechanisms
- Since then, funding has come from 4 lead agencies
- 3 general categories of pilot studies
 - Reviews and white papers
 - Workshops
 - Pilot studies



Ideas for pilot studies

- Many pilot ideas were “born” through former NCS working groups
- Also from agency scientists, PO staff, and ICC members
- Proposals sent to review subcommittee and Advisory Committee
- All pilots are reviewed for content, scope, and relevance
- Pilots are tracked in database



Reviews and white papers

- Formal literature review or white paper that summarizes existing information and identifies gaps in knowledge
- Written for both peer-reviewed journals and internal use
- Cover wide range of topics including exposures, recruitment/retention, methods, ethics, IT, and outcomes
- Approximately 50 proposed, in progress, or completed



Workshops

- Small (3-4 people) or large (15-30 people) gathering of experts to discuss issues and make recommendations
- Held in many different geographic locations (MD, DC, VA, GA, TX, MA, FL)
- Most workshops have issued a report of findings for internal use
- Approximately 50 proposed, in progress, or completed

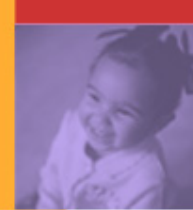


Pilot studies

- Many projects that cover wide range of scientific query from very small budget to large
- Most designed to test methods and measures
- Use of various contract mechanisms allow efficiency and easier feasibility
- Approximately 62 proposed, in progress, or completed



Workshops



- Psychosocial Stress and Pregnancy and Infancy
- Use of Herbal Products
- Media Effects
- Gene Environment Interaction and Regulation of Behavior
- Racial/Ethnic Discrimination and Racism
- Collection and Use of Genetic Information
- Ethical Issues
- Sampling Design
- Capturing Day-Specific Probabilities of Conception



Reviews/White papers



- Technology needs assessment
- Measuring housing quality and characteristics
- Recall and collection of retrospective data
- Lessons learned from Children's Environmental Health Centers
- Assessment of existing linkages with local communities
- Identifying and selecting developmental measures
- Evaluation of exposure measurement methods and approaches for the NCS



Pilot Studies



- Focus group: eliciting community involvement, recruitment, and retention of subjects
- Demonstration of low cost, low burden exposure monitoring strategies
- Feasibility of primary care sites for subject observation and data collection
- Reliability and validity of injury reporting
- Tampa Asthmatic Children's Study (TACS)
- Methods Advancement for Milk Analysis (MAMA)
- North Carolina Cohort Study



For more information...



- Poster session today from 5:30-6:30 (Blue Room)
- Program Office staff, ICC members
NCS@mail.nih.gov
- NCS website:
<http://nationalchildrensstudy.gov/>
("the research")

